3/13/72

Dear Jim,

The wages of scavenging being what they are, I am happy to have had thousands of sheets of this unusual paper given to me. The yellow of the reverse side is not the result of some arcane by-product of interception. It is necessary in the process for which this paper is out of date.

I have never lost my interest in what may lie behind L'Amerique Brule. Recently a number of things have brought my initial suspicions to mind. It is for this reason that I write. I think there may be continuing relevance, perhaps current for you.

From the very first I had the most serious doubts about the entire project and all those I knew were connected with it. I suspected Rose the day I met him. They may not have told you, but I asked Jaffe to sneak a picture of him for me, warned both Steves to keep a questioning eye on him and his projects, and wound up bawling them out for being unquestioning, reminding them that loyalty does not lie in not questioning. The net result was that instead of taking proper and obvious precautions, Jaffe told Rose, as both he and Rose later admitted to me. I do not have to remind you of the rest or its cost.

You may also recall that when I first read the third chapter in ms I told you I believed it was contrived, a fake, from the internal evidence alone.

This whole operation has intrigued me for a number of reasons I won't go into. You probably recall enough of them. It was elaborate, costly, sophisticated, and seems to have involved two intelligence agencies. When I first thought it through I reached certain tentative conclusions I have had no reason to change. Therefore, I have been more or less alert to what might relate. Recently, several things, in my opinion, have seemed relevant.

Those Frenchmen who I believe were involved without showing seem to have been engaged in recent criminal activity reaching into the United States. As best I can I have been following this and tracing them backward. Where this will ultimately lead I can't know, for I can't predict how far I can follow the leads from a distance or how much time I can devote to it. On the basis of what I now believe, I think it is not unreasonable to hold that they could have been involved in the Houma caper. And they are as completely without scruple as man can be. This is not to say they are without principle, but their's are not ours. They are philosophical fascists.

However, they have also made a major blunder, one of the results of which is that they have made an enemy in the United States as powerful as I believe their ally is. This can be an asset that should not be discarded. And if I cann[illegible] con[illegible]ect them directly with your present situation, I know of no compelling reason [illegible]nsider it impossible.

Back in those early days both Steves were reluctant to say much, even after the whole thing blew. I do not know if they thought they were protecting you, were embarrassed, or a combination. I know some of what they recorded and some of what they had given to them and some of the names they mentioned. I can't begin to recall it all or be certain of the accuracy of recollection. So, I am writing to ask that you have someone make a copy of everything you have on this, including their memos, the cards, etc., so I can compare that with what I now have and can have it freshly in mind while pursuing what I now seek. This requires not even a letter of you, only that you tell someone to do it. I hope you will. And now that you know I suspect there might be a current connection, if you think of anything that can bear on this, either way, that I would like to know.

Best regards to everyone. Hope all the ill are in improved health. By the way, if you have not seen the March issue of Earth, it may interest you.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg